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LB 1059, 1172

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on AM3375 to LB 1172.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is a proposal for your consideration on the issue of student fees in public K-12 schools. The proposal is contained in the amendment and the amendment strikes the current provisions in the bill and replaces them accordingly. You, if you haven't already, you'll receive a bullet sheet titled AM3375 to LB 70...1172. Let me "background" you just a little bit on where we've been on the issue of student fees. You may not remember it but I do, and I'll try to bring you up to date. Our current...the current content of LB 1172 is LB 1059, a bill introduced by Senator Kristensen, and this was adopted on General File. It replaced the committee amendment and is now the subject of the bill. A little bit about LB 1059, which is the current bill, it's very brief. It's only one paragraph. It is an authorization for fees based on whether or not activities, programs and so on are extracurricular. Nothing that is for credit is eligible for a fee or for, quote, extra credit. The proposal is permissive as far as a fee waiver. It says a fee waiver may be offered but it is not required and, also, there's nothing in the proposal about items that are required but not provided. There are, in addition, I would point out, several what I would consider vague terms in the proposal as it is. One of them is actual cost. Another one is extra credit, as in extra course credit. And then, finally, there's a phrase that is excluded or...an item, I guess I should say, that's excluded as far as charging fees, which is entitled for credit noninstructional activities, programs or services. These, I think, are problems with the proposal as it now is, so we undertook to address these difficulties and they are incorporated in the amendment that you have before you now. This amendment, I should be very clear, is based on a combination of the original LB 1172. That's the bill before the committee amendment. It's based on that. It's also based in part on the committee amendment, the Education Committee amendment. Now I should make it clear to you that both of these were rejected by you on General File. The committee amendment was rejected outright and LB 1172 was rejected at least in the sense that you chose to to adopt the amended committee